

Serial No. 09/744,046

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An access panel assembly for a bicycle shift mechanism, comprising:

a housing including an installation opening;

a control cable internally routed within the housing and accessible through the installation opening;

a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension insertable through the installation opening and attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and

a holding member connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member,

the closure member configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extension has a thickened portion in position on the holding member under a tensile loading of the closure member.

4. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member has a molded recess that enables the closure member to act as a hinge.

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5. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member has an upper lip coming to rest over the edge of the installation opening.

6. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member has a lower lip at least at a point furthest away from the extension, said lower lip sliding under an edge of the installation opening after the closure of the installation opening by the closure member.

7. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member has an upper lip and an edge of the installation opening in the housing has an offset on which an upper lip of the closure member is placed such that the closure member is arranged in a recessed manner on the shift mechanism.

8. (previously presented) The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member includes an upper lip and a lower lip disposed at a distal end of the closure member from the extension, the upper and lower lips configured to removably engage an edge of the installation opening.